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KENNEDY GETS RUSSELL'S VIEW ABOUT COST OF MORE DEFENSE

Any Increase to Mean
More Spending, Sen-
ator Says — Thinks
Public Would Be
Willing to Pay for It.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 21 (UPI)—President Kennedy conferred today with Senator Richard B. Russell on the Administration's new defense policies which reportedly will call for a \$2,100,000,000 increase in the present defense budget.

The Georgia Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said afterwards, "I don't think it would be possible, of course, to increase the strength of our defenses without an increase in spending."

Russell spent an hour at the White House along with Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson and Allen W. Dulles, director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

He told reporters the talk involved "good many recommendations" which have been submitted to Mr. Kennedy, including plans and programs of the Defense Department.

Russell declined to say whether the group discussed a possible increase in the \$41,800,000,000 defense budget proposed by former President Eisenhower for a fiscal year which begins Oct. 1. This is the largest United States defense budget in its history.

The Senator, however, said he didn't think the American people would mind spending money for national defense as long as they believe they are getting value for the dollar.

"People generally feel that national defense is in the nature of an insurance policy," he added.

The defense recommendations of Secretary Robert F. McNamara are to be submitted to Mr. Kennedy in final form by March 1. It was learned that the general revisions arising from this intensive review of United States defense policies already have been shown to the President.

The new plan is said to call for speeding missile production, increasing the number of jet bombers on a 15-minute alert, and boosting the size of conventional forces for brush-fire wars. This would add an estimated \$2,100,000,000 to the Eisenhower budget.

The proposals are designed to provide a retaliatory force which would be so well protected that it could survive a surprise attack and deal any enemy a death blow.